

May 4, 2001

SPACE CENTER Roundup

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20 YEARS AND STILL SOARING

JSC STS-1 Anniversary Celebration Highlights April 13, 2001



Top left: Some attendees shared their personal memories and memorabilia.
Bottom left: STS-1 Commander John Young praises the people behind the scenes who made STS-1 a success.



Top right: STS-1 pilot Bob Crippen visits with Col. Joe Engle, one of the many people who turned out for the event.
Bottom right: The 'Rockit Scientists,' a JSC employee band, played at the party.



Mission accomplished

Ellen Porter Hillis has commanding presence in the Shuttle's 20-year history

By Melissa Davis

When Ellen Porter Hillis unplugged from her Mission Control Command Console recently for the last time, she left behind a proud legacy in her retirement.

Hillis is one of the few who was involved in every mission of the last 20 years. On top of that lofty accomplishment, she is also a pioneer of sorts. "I can remember when she was the only female on console and in the whole building. She has cleared the path for other woman to follow," her husband Larry said.

Today, women are prevalent on the Mission Control console. However, when she first began, it was a much different story. "I had to prove myself every day—each and every day," she said.

Like so many who have played behind-the-scenes roles in the success of the Space Shuttle program during the past

two decades, Hillis said she is proud of the work she has accomplished at Johnson Space Center.

Hillis has provided console support for all 103 Shuttle flights flown to date, starting out as a Shuttle Data Processor Telemetry controller for the first three flights and then moving to Houston Command for flight numbers 4 through 103.

Her experience is rare. "She can say that she has been in the control center for every Shuttle flight and 20 years of Mission Control console work," her husband said.

JSC has played a bigger role in Hillis' life than just employment—it's where she met her husband too. Ellen and Larry worked on the Mission Operations Computer Console together for five years. The couple dated about five years and then married in 1993.

"Working a console connected to hers, I understood the stress and craziness that comes with the changing shifts and weird hours," he said.

While the job is demanding, Larry said his wife is a consummate pro. "Ellen is one of those people who must always do the very best job possible. She can never just unplug from the console at the end of her shift and walk away," he said. "I have seen her stay for hours to ensure that everything was running O.K."

Through all the stress and changes Hillis faced over the years, her love for the job and the space program never faded. "It's been the people who have made it great," she said. "I have lots of good memories. I really will miss it here."

Hillis added that she will miss working with the Space Shuttle itself too. "The Shuttle is a fantastic vehicle. It's very complicated and a lot of fun to work with," she said.

Husband Larry said his wife truly loved her job. "The very essence of her well being is in the success of the Manned Space program," Larry said, "and with her leaving the Space Program, the program loses one more of those who gave their very best."

While Ellen is preparing for a life with much less stress, the reality of leaving her spot at the console is bittersweet for her. "It's traumatic to walk away from this," she said. ■



Ellen Porter Hillis recently retired from JSC after working on every mission of the Space Shuttle's 20-year history. She was also a pioneer for women in Mission Control.



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Mother's Day
on May 13.
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entertains kids
at JSC picnic.
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**Expo to show
off latest
technology.
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Family Ties

Working with mom isn't so bad after all

By **Melissa Davis**

The time had come for Rita Carlson to pack her bags, leave Roswell, N.M., and move to Texas. She was heading to El Paso to begin her new position with the Department of Defense.

Then fate intervened.

"I knew El Paso wasn't the right place for my mother, and Houston has so much more to offer," said her daughter, Johnson Space Center employee Kari Carlson. "I suggested she submit her resume to United Space Alliance. The day she was to leave for El Paso, USA made an offer."

"The movers were coming to pick me up the morning that USA called and offered me a position here," Rita recalled.

Kari added: "I heard the sigh of relief all the way here in Houston."

That was nearly two years ago and mother and daughter have worked together at JSC ever since. Kari works on the International Space Station Command and Telemetry production team; Rita coordinates the Operational Readiness Test for Systems Division (DF) and Robotics & Crew Systems Operations (DX-EVA), as well as the Common Display Development Team Test for DF, DX and the Operations Division.

The two have enjoyed working together from the beginning. "It is exciting for me to see my mom so involved with her job because she loves the work

she does," Kari said.

Family ties are not uncommon at JSC. Yet, what is it like for a mother to work with the one she has given birth to?

"I believe our both working for the space program provides a very special bond, which goes beyond what we share as mother and daughter," said Carol Pierce, a senior editor in the Flight Data File area. Her daughter Laurel Morrow is an administrative assistant in the Astronaut office.

"I feel it is both an honor and a privilege to be even just a small part of something so very special and important as the space program."

Laurel said working at JSC is a source of personal pride for both her and her mother. "It is like a family business of sorts," she said, adding that her father used to work for NASA and then for Rockwell/USA, and her aunt, mother-in-law and husband work at JSC too.

JSC employees Betty Brown and her daughter Carrie Brown Sudduth also have deep roots in the space program. Betty is a Program Analyst in the Customer and

Flight Integration Office of the Space Shuttle Program and the book manager for the Flight Tests and Supplementary Objectives Document. Carrie is on the Export Services Team as the Export Coordinator, organizing JSC licenses, training for the Center and other various aspects of export control.

"My daughter Carrie was born in

Titusville, Fla., during the Apollo Program, while her Dad worked at Kennedy Space Center. Her son was born in Houston during the Space Shuttle Program," Betty said. "Our family history is intertwined in the history of the space program."

For Carrie, it seems NASA has always been a part of her life. "I remember coming to work at NASA with my mom as a child for various reasons," she said, "and it's made being part of such a leading edge environment that much more enjoyable because, in a way, it's personal too."

Often hectic lives keep mothers from spending time with their children after hours, so working together at JSC can provide the opportunity to have some

quality time together.

Kari Carlson said it is fun having her mom here. "We can call each other any time and have lunch together," she said. "As you can imagine, since both of us work in the space industry, we have to limit our talk of work, otherwise dad feels left out in the conversation. I'm sure many people can relate to that."

Laurel Morrow enjoys having her mom at JSC too. "Sometimes with my busy personal life, I don't get to talk to my mother except here at work," she said.

For Rita and Kari Carlson, being together outside the home is nothing new.

"For me, it is wonderful to be able to work near her. We also went to college together and shared an apartment," Rita said. Kari earned her bachelor's degree in mathematics and computer science; Rita earned her master's degree in mathematics.

"I never thought it would be possible to be able to work together. It is the greatest thing that could have happened to me." ■

A special thanks goes to the many JSC employees and retirees who contacted the Roundup with their story ideas! While we couldn't use them all we appreciate the stories that were shared.

'Ruth's daughter'

By **Barbara "B.J." Tomaro**

I began working at NASA in April of 1988, and from that day forward I had to change my name. I was no longer Barb, or even B.J., as some knew me. From that day on I was simply "Ruth's Daughter."

It's not as if that would be so horrible really, but I now understand what my mother must have gone through raising five kids. On the day that my oldest brother started to school, she became somebody's mommy, and though her first name changed from time to time, the second one seemed to stick. You would think this would cause an identity crisis, but she wore it like a badge of honor.

She precariously balanced home and career with the stealth of a tightrope walker, teetering now and then, but never losing control. Tiptoeing with determination across that slender line and, at least in the eyes of her family, dancing high above her world. Her savvy and sense of humor came so naturally that we took it for granted. We never knew there were others out there who also recognized the value of her advice and the strength of her

shoulders in time of need. We believed she was ours alone.

That misguided opinion changed suddenly when I started to work at NASA. My mother had been working on the same contract since 1971, and for many of those years she worked in Human Resources. For her it was the perfect mating of personality and position. Everyone who came to her office left with the feeling that she truly cared and she would do her best.

Some who visited didn't really come for advice, they just needed to talk. Mom called this "venting." Us kids had done this for years, but we never knew others did it as well. We thought that somewhere between the Christmas stockings and Easter egg hunts she had invented it just for us. My new fellow employees were more than happy to regale me with stories of my mother and her ability to listen to the ranting of otherwise normal employees. I was told that some people vented so well that mother had to replace the potted trees in her office with the more durable rubber variety.

Though many years ago she transferred from Human Resources, and has

Mother's Day is

May 13

Mother's Day is the second Sunday in May.

since retired, there are many people who still seek her out. Apparently they have grown to depend on her in much the same way that we did. I remember that as I stumbled through adolescence I found the usual faults with my parents that most teen-agers encounter; but I have since discovered to my amazement that the older I get, the smarter my mother becomes.

In 1996, my mother suffered a devastating stroke. Her world and mine were turned upside down. Suddenly gone were the quick wit and ready counsel I had come to rely on. There were days that I believed I would lose her altogether. The doctors seemed so convinced she wouldn't make it through the critical first 72 hours. Or, if by some miracle she did, how much would she have left? But my mother had always had a tremendous faith and had taught us to expect miracles. My brothers, sisters and I prayed that, once again, she would prove to be right.

As the days progressed, she struggled to identify even the simplest things - where she was, what year it was or the food she was eating. Worst of all, the woman with whom I had once shared my innermost thoughts, hopes and dreams, was now unable to even remember my name. Our roles were reversed and I became her caretaker, protector and occasional tormentor as my brother and I quizzed her with pictures and word

games to help her brain re-path around the damaged area. Through it all, she never gave up, and she never complained. Though I knew she wanted to, it wasn't her style.

I realize now that even in her illness, she again taught me some of the most significant lessons in my life—perseverance and the importance of family. Then one day in the hospital we were going through our usual routine of questions and answers, and I asked her who I was. I cannot begin to describe the euphoria I felt by her matter-of-fact response: "You're my daughter, Barb."

As my Mother continues to recover, I let her know in every way I can that I love her. Never again will I take our time together for granted. I cherish each precious moment because I realize how quickly we might lose them.

And now those words that used to make me feel like I had no identity have helped me define who I am, and I could never adequately express the tremendous feeling of pride that rushes over me when someone asks, "Are you Ruth's daughter?"

It's still not an easy cross to bear. She has, after all, left me with enormous shoes to fill. But how lucky I am that she is my mom, and she is willing to continually remind me that I have big feet.

Happy Mother's Day from "Ruth's Daughter"! ■



It took some getting used to, but JSC employee Barbara 'B.J.' Tomaro no longer minds being called 'Ruth's daughter' after her mother, retired JSC employee Ruth Tomaro.

NEWS FROM WHITE SANDS

HOT OFF THE PRESSES

Keystone Committee expands safety awareness

By Cheerie R. Patneau

Members of the Keystone Committee—the White Sands Test Facility (WSTF) safety awareness committee—expanded their mission to the Region VI Voluntary Protection Program Participant's Association's (VPPPA) annual 2001 Conference with two employee participation workshops.

The conference was held in Corpus Christi with 1,200 in attendance for the week-long activities. Guest speakers at the conference were Ed Foreman, Cynthia Cooper and Certified Speaking Professional John W. Drebing, Jr.

The Keystone Committee (named for the locking stone at the top of an arch) has been active at WSTF for more than two years. Holger Fischer, committee chair, shared the successes of safety

initiatives to the audiences.

Recently, an issue of the Porcelain Press, a safety awareness newsletter posted to the site's restroom walls, was honored by being flown on STS-106 with Commander Terry Wilcutt. The committee accepted the plaque signed by the STS-106 crew and the framed newsletter. Members of the committee are: Larry Wiedmaier, Marcus Dunford, Jose Lopez, Don Hall, Ed Havenor, Jill Rollings, Cheerie Patneau, K. C. Schlotterbeck, Holger Fischer, Richard Von Wolff, Danny Aranda, John Kelley, Eric Crespino, Fred Dishman, Raul Estrada and Jesse Wells.

Fischer's talking points to the audiences during the workshops highlighted these site-wide accomplishments:

- Raised the safety awareness onsite
- People are not afraid to raise safety concerns
- Safety problems are fixed
- Employee participation and awareness has increased
- Management has open door policy
- Management is concerned about employee's well being
- Management makes every effort to provide feedback to employees

After the presentation, Fischer challenged the audiences with his customary motto: "Shut up, stop whining and do something!" about safety.

Following Fischer's presentation, Barbara Bengel, a United Space Alliance JSC employee (EVA Robotics) who shared the workshop with the WSTF

group, showed the audiences that when "a break in the corporate ladder from the top down regarding a genuine concern for safety [occurs], there will be an increased risk of hazards and accidents."

Bengel also presented examples of employee participation in safety/health workstations, safety bulletin boards with visual aids, safety quotes, safety tips, safety flyers and contests. Bengel believes that when employee awareness is combined with motivation, a site will have employee participation, but it must be combined with a genuine concern for safety.

The Keystone Committee also attended other VPPPA workshops and will be implementing initiatives from the conference to improve safety of WSTF employees.

WSTF Manager Joe Fries commented on several issues relating to the Keystone Committee recently. "All the members of the Keystone Committee have been instrumental in making our safety awareness what it is today, and for that I would like to thank them for the hard work they have done," he said. "As Chair of the Keystone Committee, Holger has done an outstanding job. He has shown himself to be a leader, while managing many other projects and daily tasks."

Honeywell Technology Solutions, Inc. Program Manager Bob Baker said, "The conference was an excellent learning experience for me and others attending. The presentations were of a high quality and served to reinforce that we're doing the right things for our current VPP projects. The conference helped to reinforce our belief that we can eliminate all accidents and injuries at our site."

"Congratulations to Holger Fischer, Don Hall, and all the members of the Keystone Committee who helped with the presentation. It was the best at the conference, judged by the number of people attending." ■



Recently Joe Fries, White Sands Training Facility manager, and Bob Baker, program manager for Honeywell Technology Solutions, Inc., met with committee members of the Porcelain Press—a safety awareness newsletter that is posted on the restroom walls at White Sands. Pictured above, from left, is K.C. Schlotterbeck, Raul Estrada, Fred Dishman, Cheerie Patneau, Marc Dunford, Joe Fries, Holger Fischer, Bob Baker, Case Van Dyke, John Bernal, Richard Von Wolff, Jill Rollings, Pete Garcia and Ed Havenor. Fries and Fischer hold a plaque; Baker holds a framed Porcelain Press.

What a beautiful day for a picnic! *Thousands attend JSC event at Astroworld*

The weather was perfect this year for the thousands of employees attending the NASA-JSC Family Picnic April 1 at Astroworld.

JSC Employee Activities Association President Ginger Gibson said this year's picnic, the seventh consecutive one to be held at Astroworld, drew well over 3,000 NASA employees, retirees, contractors and their families and friends. This was the largest crowd to date—the EAA sold more than 3,100 tickets for the event.

Astronauts Dave Brown, Barbara Morgan, Willie McCool, Joe Tanner, Stan Love and Dan Burbank signed autographs, and the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo speakers committee entertained the crowd with singers, rodeo clowns and dancers. Face painters and balloon clowns also provided some smiles. In addition, those who attended received free complimentary passes for another visit to Astroworld later this year.

"The picnic at Astroworld was a huge success. What a great day—the weather cooperated and the food was plentiful and really good, with all you could eat

barbecue, assorted beverages and ice cream," said Gibson, who chaired this year's picnic committee. "We also had great entertainment, and all the rides and attractions that Astroworld offers. What more could you ask for?"

The Family Picnic was a hit with everybody. "This is a great family day for our folks and they seem to be pleased with the variety of things to do for kids of all ages," she said. "The A&W ranch area offered a nice reprieve for people to take a short break, recoup, grab a bite to eat, drink, visit and then hit the rides again."

Gibson said many people never even went into the park. "They just stayed around The Big Red Barn and enjoyed the fun, food and fellowship," she said. "It is always a fun-filled day for everyone who attends." ■



Photographs show some of the fun that took place at Astroworld's A&W Ranch, where JSC employees gathered to enjoy barbecue and each other's company, play horseshoes and dance to the music.

White Sands says Good Luck Miguel!



Miguel Maes will be competing in the Alumni Western Horsemanship and Alumni Reining at the 2001 IHSA National Horse Show. It will be held at the Georgia International Horse Park in Conyers, Ga., May 4-6. Maes is pictured here, center, standing with his trainers, friends and the saddle he won at Nationals last year.

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS

SPACE SHUTTLE TOP FIVE LIST:

5. An assembled Space Shuttle is about 184 feet long, 76 feet high to the tip of the orbiter's vertical tail and 78 feet wide, measuring across the orbiter's wingtips. Liftoff weight is usually about 4.5 million pounds.

4. As of April 12, 2001 (the 20th anniversary of the first Space Shuttle mission), a total of 263 astronauts—American and international—had flown aboard the Space Shuttle.

3. The longest shuttle flight was STS-80, which lasted 17 days, 15 hours and 53 minutes.

2. There have been 62 Extravehicular Activities (EVAs), or spacewalks, based out of the shuttle, totaling 392 hours and 35 minutes.

1. Only one astronaut has flown on all five orbiters: Astronaut Story Musgrave, M.D. He also performed the first EVA based out of the Shuttle.



JSC's Rocket Park was host to a rare space shuttle appearance recently. Hundreds of JSC employees, contractors and visitors gathered on JSC's prominent lawn April 13 to form a shuttle shape commemorating the 20th anniversary of STS-1, NASA's inaugural shuttle flight.

This image was captured by NASA/JSC photographers who flew in a helicopter 500 feet overhead, courtesy of the neighboring U.S. Coast Guard unit based at Ellington Field. Members of JSC's Graphics department created the shuttle outline at Rocket Park.

You can download the picture at www.jsc.nasa.gov/pao/public/shuttpic.html

It's the people that make it happen!

Ripped from the ROUNDUP

Ripped straight from the pages of old Space News Roundups, here's what happened at JSC on this date:

1966

Out of Texas' Past: Try a Texas History Pop Quiz

1. Who was the first president of the Texas Republic?

2. On what holiday did this state secede from the United States in 1861?

3. The first capital of Texas was Monclova, Mexico, at the beginning of the 18th century. How many times has the capital's location been changed since then?

4. At the time of her annexation, Texas' borders embraced territory now lying in five other states. What are those states?

(Answers at bottom of page)

1971

D

irector Dr. Robert R. Gilruth was interviewed on Monday, April 12, the 10th anniversary of Russian Cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin's orbital flight, man's first venture into space. He had just sent a congratulatory telegram to Moscow. He remembers well a phone conversation with a reporter in the early morning hours on April 12, 1961. "It's happened, Dr. Gilruth. There's a man named Yuri Gagarin who is in orbit. Do you have any comment?" "Well," Dr. Gilruth recalls saying, "I hope he gets down all right."

1991

T

he countdown is at L-minus-25 days and counting today for Space Center Houston, now fully funded after the sale of bonds that will finance the project. Groundbreaking ceremonies for the new \$70 million visitor center at JSC are set for 11 a.m. May 28. All JSC and contractor employees and the public are invited. Harold Stall, MSFEFI President and JSC Public Affairs Director, said construction will begin on its 123-acre site near JSC's main gate immediately after the groundbreaking. Grand opening is set in the fall of 1992. The 183,000-square-foot facility will occupy 50 acres of land to the left of the main entrance.

(Answers to 1996)

1. David G. Burnett (who is buried in Galveston). Not Sam Houston. 2. On Texas Independence Day, March 2. 3. Fourteen times. First the capital was changed to Los Adaes (in present Louisiana); then to San Antonio, Saltillo, Monclova again, San Felipe de Austin, Washington-on-the-Brazos, Harrisburg, Galveston, Velasco, Columbia, Houston, Austin, Houston again, and at last back to Austin. 4. New Mexico, Oklahoma, Kansas, Colorado and Wyoming.

ROUNDUP

Frosch, Yardley cover new space technology in STS development

Lyndon B. Space C

Celebrate Cinco de Mayo

Cinco de Mayo is a date of great importance for the Mexican and Chicano communities. Many people think that Cinco de Mayo celebrates Mexico's Independence. However, it marks the victory of the Mexican Army over the French at the Battle of Puebla.

Although the Mexican army was eventually defeated, the "Batalla de Puebla"—which became known as simply "5 de Mayo"—represents a symbol of Mexican unity and patriotism. With this victory, Mexico demonstrated to the world that Mexico and all of Latin America were willing to defend themselves of any foreign intervention.

JSC's Cinco de Mayo program featuring professional Latin dancers Monica Oljneika and Josh Zuniga will be Friday, May 4, in Building 3 at 11:30 a.m.

ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Almost two decades ago, President Jimmy Carter signed a joint resolution declaring the first Asian Pacific American Heritage Week as May 4-10, 1979. Then in 1990, President George Bush signed an extension making the weeklong celebration into a month-long. Finally, Public Law 102-450 approved on October 23, 1992, designated May of each year as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

In observance of Asian Pacific American Month, Rathna Kumar and the Anjali dancers will entertain in the building 3 cafeteria at 11:30 p.m. on May 16.

23rd Annual JSC FOD Chili Cookoff

Saturday, May 5, 2001 at the Gilruth Picnic area

8:30 a.m. : Space Trivia begins

11 a.m. : Storefronts ready for judging

11:30 a.m. : Team Events (skits)

Noon: Chili ready for public tasting

1:30 p.m. : Games

2 p.m. : Turn in Judge's Chili

2:30 p.m. : Turn in "People's Choice" votes

5 p.m. : Awards Ceremony

Tickets are available for \$6 at the cookoff.

For more information: <http://chili.jsc.nasa.gov>




A day at the fair

Mark your calendar for the Spring Safety and Health Fair on May 11

This year's Spring Safety and Health Fair theme is "Safety 'Round the Clock," focusing on learning to take care of yourself both at home and work. The event is Friday, May 11, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Gilruth Center. Along with the fair is a child car seat check that will take place in the south parking lot.

At the fair, employees can expect to gather information about such diverse subjects as home safety (fire, child poisoning, security, neighborhood harmony); fitness and nutrition; boating and water safety; automobile safety; drugs in the schools; recreation (scooters and bicycles); personal protection (identity theft) and even weather safety.

People can participate in a 10-minute introduction to massage to relieve workday stress, pick up a child identification kit or find out when the latest power and sailboat safety classes will be held. Before they leave, they are also welcome to a free hot dog and popcorn. So for a fun-filled, educational and beneficial time, the May 11 Spring Safety and Health Fair will be the place to go.



HIGH TECH HAPPENINGS

Expo to show off latest ODIN technology

For the third year in a row OAO is hosting, in conjunction with ISD, an information technology exposition. The ODIN Alliance-Technology Expo 2001 will be Thursday, May 10, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Gilruth Ballroom. The Expo is offered to all JSC federal and contractor employees.

The ODIN Alliance team members (Dell, Microsoft, Apple, HP, Cisco and others) will present the newest and greatest technology offered under the ODIN contract. The Expo vendors will be connected to the JSC network using the wireless 802.11 industry standard, displaying the latest in network technology.

This year there will be breakout sessions again with demonstrations and training from the vendors at the show. There will also be giveaways and refreshments for all that attend.

Stay tuned for more details to www.houston.oao.com/csd/odin_expo2001.html

JSC NetUniversity allows the computer to be your classroom

JSC civil servants have a new training resource at their fingertips: JSC NetUniversity. Launched in February 2001, NetUniversity will become the web portal for all of JSC's general-audience web-based training, including computer-related, business and professional effectiveness courses.

Do you have an immediate training need and don't have time to wait for a scheduled course? Is it difficult for you to plan your training schedule several weeks in advance? Do you learn better on your own, at your own pace rather than classroom style? Then, JSC NetUniversity may be just what you need: train at your workstation, at your own pace, just when you need it.

Check out JSC NetUniversity at <http://hro.jsc.nasa.gov/training/wbt/>. You'll find more than 100 basic and advanced computer-related courses offered through SmartForce.

Topics include:

- Microsoft Office
- Windows 2000
- Programming languages (C++, Java, Visual Basic, etc.),
- Web Development and more

You'll also find more than 400

business and professional effectiveness courses offered through SkillSoft.

Topics include:

- Communication
- Leadership
- Team building
- Project Management
- Customer Service
- Finance
- Strategic planning
- Knowledge management and more

SmartForce courses emulate the program you are learning to enhance the learning process. First you are presented information and watch a demonstration. Then, you are encouraged to perform typical "real-life" tasks in a simulated version of the application. In the simulations, SmartForce re-created portions of the application so you can experience a product without having it loaded on your system. Appropriate feedback is provided to help you through the tasks.

If your organization would like a live demo of JSC NetUniversity, please call Kay Westfall at x33072 or Erica Vandersand at x31999. Use the feedback button on the JSC NetUniversity page to let them know what you think. ■

GOOD NEWS***Secretarial Excellence Awards for March and April***

**Karen Flynn,
Joan Shack
are presented the
Marilyn J. Bockting
Award**

Karen Flynn of the Chief Information Officer (CIO) Office and Joan Shack of the Business Management Directorate were recently presented with the Marilyn J. Bockting Secretarial Excellence Award. Flynn was recognized in February for her contributions as secretary to the Chief Information Officer; Shack was recognized in March for her contributions as a secretary in the Projects Procurement Office.

Flynn reflects the spirit of this award daily through her initiative, self-motivation and conscientious attention to detail. The products and services she provides not only the CIO Office, but also other organizations are always exceptional and delivered with a winning, positive atti-

tude. Since becoming the directorate secretary in 1999, Flynn has proven to be an invaluable asset to the organization. She immediately restructured and streamlined the processes in the office, taking the lead on identifying and defining office procedures, file server data structure, action item tracking and work flow activities.

Because of her demonstrated skill and professionalism, Flynn was asked to be the Technical Managers Representative (TMR) for the second secretarial position in the office that was provided via the Muniz contract. Flynn worked diligently with the

Human Resources Office to understand and implement the intent and spirit of the task order.

This included explaining to all CIO Office personnel the scope of the Muniz support, the process for requesting and evaluating the contractor's performance, as well as training the new secretary on all CIO Office administrative forms, processes and procedures. The last task included significant time demonstrating the I/T aspects of the CIO Office file server, data structure and control board responsibilities. Many of the forms and processes developed by Flynn for the Muniz contractor were adopted by other organizations.

The CIO Office participated in an activity with the Chief Financial Officer and Information Systems Directorate to pathfind the new center time and labor collection system. Flynn was the CIO Office lead in coordinating

office personnel training, answering questions and overseeing the dual timekeeping efforts that was required for the three pay periods. Not only was she responsible for validating the paper-based timecard process, but also the new web-based system in tandem. The extraordinary energy Flynn put into learning and mastering the new system helped the CIO Office transition seamlessly from the old to the new.

Flynn also performs all the functions of a Senior Staff Secretary, all the agency-wide and senior contract management contact and coordination efforts required by the office, and acts as the administrative assistant. She also functions as the property custodian and CTS coordinator.

Without a doubt, Flynn has been a key to the continued success of the CIO Office. She is very mission oriented, tenacious and devoted to helping the Center and the office. She is dependable, well liked by all in the office and others who have met her at the Center. She represents the very best that NASA and the Johnson Space Center have in its people and their skills, dedication, quality and productivity.



Karen Flynn



Joan Shack

Joan Shack

has proven to be an invaluable asset to the Projects Procurement Office. She immediately took control of the situation in her office. She organized files, and caught up on

many actions that had been left untended. The office quickly learned they could rely on her for correspondence and numerous contract-related activities and rapidly inundated her. She simply got it done and asked what else she could do.

Because of her demonstrated skill and professionalism, Shack was asked to step in during the absence of the office's lead secretary. For three months, Shack worked in the office of the Manager for 15 hours a week. This required Shack to be even more organized than she typically was, and also required her to work in two different buildings. Not only did she not complain, neither did any of the folks she was supporting.

In addition to her routine secretarial duties such as correspondence, timecards and training coordinator, Shack was also given some tasks that were above and beyond the expected for a secretary. One example is the organization of the Contractor Performance Survey data, which requires a great deal of coordination between contracts people, technical monitors and contractors, as well as the ability to keep the data for approximately 100 contractors organized such that it can be located on a moments notice.

Another example is her role in file management and documentation on the SEAT contract. While initially asked to simply do some filing on this \$2 billion contract, Joan has tackled it with her usual initiative and actually made some improvements to the current system.

On a daily basis, Shack demonstrates the skill and professionalism that is reflective of this award. ■



Girl Scouts say thank you to OAO Corporation

Thanks to OAO Corporation, the Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council (GSSJC) Troop 1306 have earned their computer badge. On Feb. 27, OAO allowed Troop 1306 to use their training lab to learn basic computer skills. The girls learned how to draw pictures, compose a letter and navigate through the Web. They also learned how OAO Corporation supports JSC and the other Code M centers through the ODIN contract. To show their appreciation, GSSJC Troop 1306 visited Spencer Meyer, JSC ODIN Program Manager, on March 16 to present OAO a certificate of appreciation. ■

Co-ops share their many NASA experiences with high school students

By Julie Burt

The students of South Houston High School got a break from their studies in late March, compliments of NASA Cooperative Education Students (Co-ops). On March 27 - 29, the students had a chance to talk to the Co-ops about what it is like to work for the space program.

"The goal of the program was to expose the students of South Houston High School to the research and work that is being conducted here at the space center," said Maile Ceridon, High School Outreach Program Coordinator for Spring 2001. Ceridon is a student at Colorado State University and works in the Crew and Thermal Systems Division.

High School Outreach is an official educational outreach program run by NASA Co-ops at Johnson Space Center.

Now in its 10th year, the program has reached over 10,400 students at area high schools.

A small group of Co-ops who were in charge of this semester's program have been working since January. They recently held meetings for the 35 participants to get ready to go back to high school for a few hours.

The Co-ops divided into groups of up to four and gave presentations to classes of about 25. They talked about their jobs, their experiences with both work and school and promoted the space program to almost 400 9-12 graders.

Lucie Johannes, a senior at University of

Missouri-Rolla who works in the EVA and Spacesuit Systems Branch, said she realized just how much the students were affected when she read the evaluations. "The students really look up to us and it means a lot to them when we talk about



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Co-ops John Schank, Alex May, Barbara Janoiko, Alison Bahnsen and LC Colmenero shared their experiences with high school students.

the importance of college," she said.

"We tried to show them that anything is possible and we are proof of that," said Laura Campbell, a junior at Pennsylvania State University who works in the Flight Data File Office of the Mission Operations Procedures Branch. "The point we made was that we weren't geniuses at all, but a little hard work and discipline will take you very far in life."

Barbara Janioko, a senior at Texas A&M who works in the Biomedical Hardware Development and Engineering Office, agreed with Campbell, "The High School Outreach Program shows the kids that in order to do all the neat things at NASA, they need to go to college and work hard. Hearing this from college students just a few years older than them shows that it is an obtainable goal." ■

PEOPLE

on the

MOVE

Human Resources reports the following personnel changes:

Key Personnel Assignments

Jon Cowart was selected Manager, JSC Resident Office at Kennedy Space Center, Space Shuttle Program Office.

Additions to the Workforce

Mary Dunseith joins the External Relations Office, as a Secretary.

Oma Cross joins the Public Affairs Office, as Lead Secretary.

Carla Haroz, Lisa Holmesly, and Edward Terrell join the Operations Division, Mission Operations Directorate, as Flight Controllers.

Jeffrey Davis joins the Guidance and Propulsion Systems Branch, Systems Division, Mission Operations Directorate, as a Flight Controller.

Frank Lin joins the Advanced Development Office, Engineering Directorate, as an Aerospace Engineer.

John Lewis joins the Life Support and Habitability Systems Branch, Crew and Thermal Systems Division, Engineering Directorate, as an Aerospace Engineer.

Brian Macias joins the Systems Test Branch, Crew and Thermal Systems Division, Engineering Directorate, as an Aerospace Engineer.

Jason Vos joins the Energy Systems Test Branch, Energy Systems Division, Engineering Directorate, as an Aerospace Engineer.

Lane Skyles joins the Structures and Dynamics Branch, Structures and Mechanics Division, Engineering Directorate, as an Aerospace Engineer.

Kenneth Ruta joins the Project Management Office, Space Shuttle Vehicle Engineering Office, Space Shuttle Program, as a Project Engineer.

Mary Schwartz joins the GFE Assurance Branch, Flight Equipment Division, Safety, Reliability, and Quality Assurance Office, as an Aerospace Engineer.

Mathew Gray joins the Integration and Operations Branch, Space Station Division, Safety, Reliability and Quality Assurance Office, as an Aerospace Engineer.

Holger Fischer joins the Engineering Office, White Sands Test Facility, as a Facility Engineer.

Josef Schmid joins the Medical Operations Branch, Medical Sciences Division, Space and Life Sciences Directorate, as a Medical Officer.

Reassignments to Other Centers

Ed Champion moves to Goddard Space Flight Center.

Donna Cinan moves to Marshall Space Flight Center.

James Lucero moves to Dryden Flight Research Center.

Reassignments to Other Directorates

Steve Schenfeld moves from the Safety, Reliability, and Quality Assurance Office to the International Space Station Program.

Retirements

Yvette Damien of the Public Affairs Office.

Edward Kubiak of the Engineering Directorate.

Betty Cook of the Information Systems Directorate.

D. E. Reed of the Information Systems Directorate.

Claudette Gage of the Space and Life Sciences Directorate.

Resignations

Juan Padron of the Engineering Directorate.

Kelly Restemyer of the Mission Operations Directorate.

NASA BRIEFS

JAPANESE ASTRONAUT TO VISIT INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION

Astronaut Soichi Noguchi, from the National Space Development Agency of Japan (NASDA), has been named to the crew of STS-113 and is expected to fly into orbit aboard the Space Shuttle Endeavour in July 2002.

This will be Noguchi's first flight into space, and he will be the fifth Japanese astronaut to fly aboard the shuttle. Noguchi will be the second Japanese astronaut to visit the International Space Station, adding to the Japanese contributions to the assembly and operation of the most significant science and technology project ever undertaken.

The STS-113 mission, a Utilization and Logistics Flight (ULF-1), is planned for 10 days with a crew of made up of seven astronauts. Endeavour will carry experiment and resupply equipment in the Multipurpose Logistics Module to the International Space Station. Two space walks also are planned. Noguchi is the first crew member to be named to this flight.

The other crew assignments have yet to be determined.

STS-110 ASTRONAUTS TO PROVIDE SPACE STATION ADDITIONAL SUPPORT

NASA recently named the crew responsible for giving the growing International Space Station some extra support that will clear the way for future expansion of the orbiting laboratory. The seven-member crew is expected to fly into orbit aboard the Space Shuttle Atlantis in early 2002.

During the 10-day STS-110 mission, Atlantis and its crew will install the backbone of future space station growth by adding exterior truss supports to the Destiny laboratory, which also serves as the space station control center.

Leading the crew of STS-110 on board Atlantis will be Commander Michael Bloomfield (Lt. Col., USAF). He is joined on the flight deck by Pilot Stephen Frick (Lt. Cmdr., USN). Mission specialists for the flight are Jerry Ross (Col., USAF, Ret.), Steven Smith, Ellen Ochoa (Ph.D.), Lee M.E. Morin (Capt., USN; M.D.; Ph.D.) and Rex Walheim (Lt. Col., USAF).

Correction
April 6 Issue

Engineers Week story

We printed that there were 12 volunteers. It should have said 133 volunteers.

Sorry, volunteers!

DATES

&

DATA

May 4
Chess Club meets: The Space City Chess Club meets each Friday evening - May 4, 11, 18 and 25 - from 5:30 p.m. until 9 p.m. at the Clear Lake United Methodist Church, 16335 El Camino Real, room 423. All skill levels are welcome. For more information, please call James Mulberry at x39287 or James Termini at x32639.

May 7
CLA-NSS meets: The Clear Lake area chapter of the National Space Society meets at 6:30 p.m. at the Parker Williams Branch of the Harris County Library at 10851 Scarsdale Blvd. For more information contact Murray Clark at (281) 367-2227.

NSBE meets: The National Society of Black Engineers meets at 6:30 p.m. at Texas Southern University, School of Technology, first floor. For more information contact Kimberly Topps at (281) 280-2917.

May 8
Aero Club meets: The Bay Area Aero Club meets at 7 p.m. at the Houston Gulf Airport clubhouse at 2750 FM 1266 in League City. For more information contact Larry Hendrickson at x32050 or checkout www.bayareaaeroclub.org.

IAAP meets: The Clear Lake/NASA Chapter of the International Association of Administrative Professionals presents Anita Reed, International Speaker & Trainer. Come out and hear "Ways to Achieve Greatness In Your Own Personal Way" from her "Strengthen Your Skills for Continued Success" series, at 5:30 p.m. at the Grace Community Church Colonial Room, 14325 Crescent Landing (Hwy 3 & Clear Lake City Blvd). Contact Frances Jackson at 281-929-1001 or at fjackson@cprk.com for more information.

May 9
MAES meets: The Society of Mexican-American Engineers and Scientists meets at 11:30 a.m. in Bldg. 16, Rm. 111.

For more information contact Margaret C. Delgado at 713-643-6097 or mcdelgad@aol.com.

Spaceland Toastmasters meet: The Spaceland Toastmasters meet on Wednesday Mornings at 7 a.m. at House of Prayer Lutheran Church 1515 Bay Area Blvd at Reseda. Other meetings will be held May 16, 23 and 30. For details, contact Ava Sloan at 713-768-6336 or asloan@hal-pc.org.

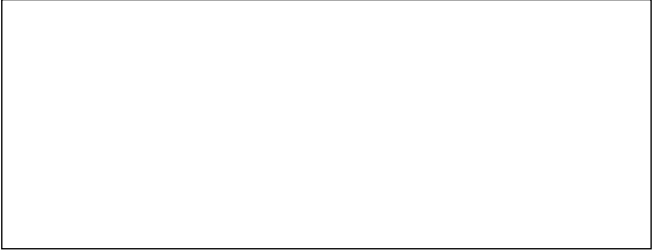
Spaceteam Toastmasters meet: The Spaceteam Toastmasters meet at 11:30 a.m. at United Space Alliance, 600 Gemini. Other meetings will be held May 16, 23 and 30. For details contact Patricia Blackwell at (281) 280-6863.

Texas Solar Energy Society: You're invited to view a video titled "What's Up with the Weather?" and learn more about global warming. 11:30 - 12:30 in building 7, room 141F. Contact Mike Ewert at X39134 for more information.

May 10
Airplane Club meets: The Radio Control Airplane Club meets at 7 p.m. at the Clear Lake Park building. For details contact Bill Langdoc at x35970.

Communicators meet: The Clear Lake Communicators, a Toastmasters International club, meets at 11:30 at Wyle Laboratories, 1100 Hercules, Suite 305. Other meetings will be held May 17, 24 and 31. For more details contact Allen Prescott at (281) 282-3281 or Richard Lehman at (281) 280-6557.

May 11
Astronomers meet: The JSC Astronomical Society meets at 7:30 p.m. at the Center for Advanced Space Studies, 3600 Bay Area Blvd. For more information contact Chuck Shaw at x35416 or go to the website: <http://www.ghg.net/cbr/jscas/>.



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